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THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Boston, Massachusetts
December 11, 1959

AMA Questions Smoking Danger

By the Associated Press

Chicago

The journal of the American Medical Association said Dec. 10 that there is insufficient evidence "to warrant the assumption" that cigarette smoking is the principal factor in the increase in lung cancer.

In an editorial the journal questions conclusions in a report by Dr. Leroy E. Burney, surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service, listing smoking as the main factor leading to such an increase and concluding that heavy smokers are more prone to lung cancer than others.

Dr. Burney's report, summarizing research on lung cancer, was carried two weeks ago in the journal.

The journal editorial recalled that Dr. Burney's report identified the Public Health Service "with those who consider that the evidence to date implicates smoking as the principal factor in the increase in lung cancer," the editorial continues:

"A number of authorities who have examined the same evidence cited by Dr. Burney do not agree with his conclusions. Although the studies reveal a relationship between cigarette smoking and cancer that seems more than coincidental, they do not explain why, even when smoking patterns are the same, case rates are higher among men than among women and among urban than among rural populations. . . .

"The Public Health Service can best meet its obligations by collecting and disseminating data for all sources and making known to the health and medical professions its own evaluations of such data."

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NEW YORK
WORLD-TELEGRAM & SUN
December 11, 1959
New York, New York

AMA Warns Doctors About Cigaret Data

Science Service.

CHICAGO, Dec. 11.—Doctors were cautioned today that data on lung cancer and smoking recently compiled by the United States Health Service are not enough to indict the cigaret as a cause of lung cancer.

An editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Assn. states that the summary of information on research in the smoking-lung cancer controversy, written by Surgeon General Leroy E. Burney, identifies the Public Health Service with those who consider the evidence proof enough that smoking is the principal causative factor in the increase in lung cancer.

A number of authorities who have examined the same evidence, the editorial acutions, do not agree with Dr. Burney's conclusions.

Neither the proponents nor the opponents of the smoking theory have sufficient evidence to warrant the assumption of an all-or-none authoritative position, the AMA editorial said.

This editorial closely follows Dr. Burney's report in the Journal. He stated that evidence implicates smoking as the principal causative factor in the increase in lung cancer.

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CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
Chicago, Illinois
December 11, 1959

A. M. A. POINTS TO CONFLICT IN CIGARET VIEWS

Many authorities do not agree with Dr. LeRoy E. Burney, surgeon general of the United States public health service, who recently asserted that cigaret smoking was the principal cause of lung cancer, the Journal of the American Medical association said Thursday.

"Altho the studies reveal a relationship between cigaret smoking and cancer that seems more than coincidental, they do not explain why, even when smoking patterns are the same, case rates are higher among men than among women, and among urban than among rural populations," the Journal said.

"Neither the proponents nor the opponents of the smoking theory have sufficient evidence . . ."

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES
Los Angeles, Calif.
December 11, 1959

AMA Doubtful of Cancer Link to Cigarettes

CHICAGO, Dec. 10 (AP) — The Journal of the American Medical Assn. said today that there is insufficient evidence to warrant the assumption that cigarette smoking is the principal factor in the increase in lung cancer.

In an editorial, the Journal questions conclusions in a report by Dr. Leroy E. Burney, Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service, listing smoking as the main factor leading to such an increase and concluding that heavy smokers are more prone to lung cancer than others.

Burney's report, summarizing research on lung cancer, was carried two weeks ago in the Journal.

The Journal editorial said:

"A number of authorities who have examined the same evidence cited by Dr. Burney do not agree with his conclusions."

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NEW YORK
HERALD TRIBUNE
New York, New York
December 12, 1959

Peril of Smoking Unproved, Says A.M.A. 'Journal'

CHICAGO, Dec. 11 (UPI). "The Journal of the American Medical Association" said in an editorial today that no one can definitely link cigarette smoking with cancer, yet.

An editorial signed by Dr. John H. Talbott, the editor, said the United States Public Health Service has aligned itself "with those who consider that the evidence to date implicates smoking as the principal etiological factor in the increase of lung cancer."

"Neither the proponents nor the opponents of the smoking theory have sufficient evidence to warrant the assumption of an all-or-none authoritative position," Dr. Talbott said.

"Although the studies reveal a relationship between the cigarette smoking and cancer that seems more than coincidental, they do not explain why, even when smoking patterns are the same, case rates are higher for men than among women and among urban than rural populations," Dr. Talbott said.

Dr. Talbott said he smokes only cigars or a pipe and gave up cigarette smoking years ago when he was an intern at New York's Presbyterian Hospital because it was "a filthy habit not allowed in hospitals."

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NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
New York, New York
December 12, 1959

MAKE UP YOUR MINDS, BOYS

Surgeon General L. E. Burney of the U. S. Public Health Service says it is now established that cigaret smoking causes lung cancer. The American Medical Association Journal says Burney is all wet, and nobody can yet state authoritatively whether cigarets do or don't bring on this dread disease.

Until the scientists make up their minds one way or the other, we don't see why Amercans shouldn't go on calmly smoking as many cigarets as they damn please—which is just what current figures on booming cigaret sales show Americans to be doing.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xjcm0000